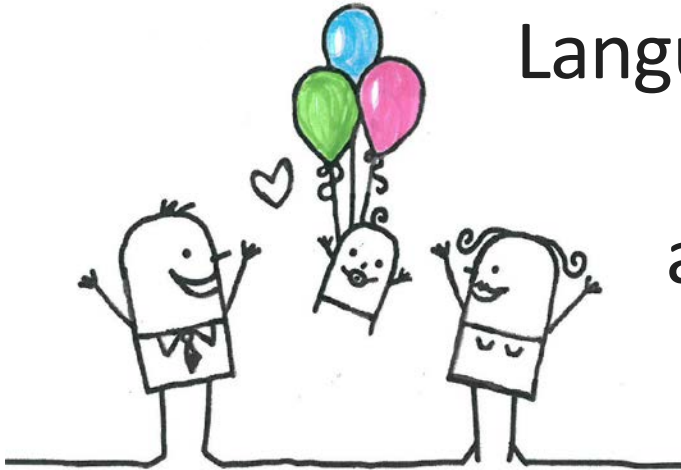


Act 177

Supporting Age-Appropriate Language Development for Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind Children in Hawai'i



Presented by:

Colin Whited, Jennifer Clark, PoKwan Wong and Dale Matsumoto-Oi
Hawai'i State Department of Health

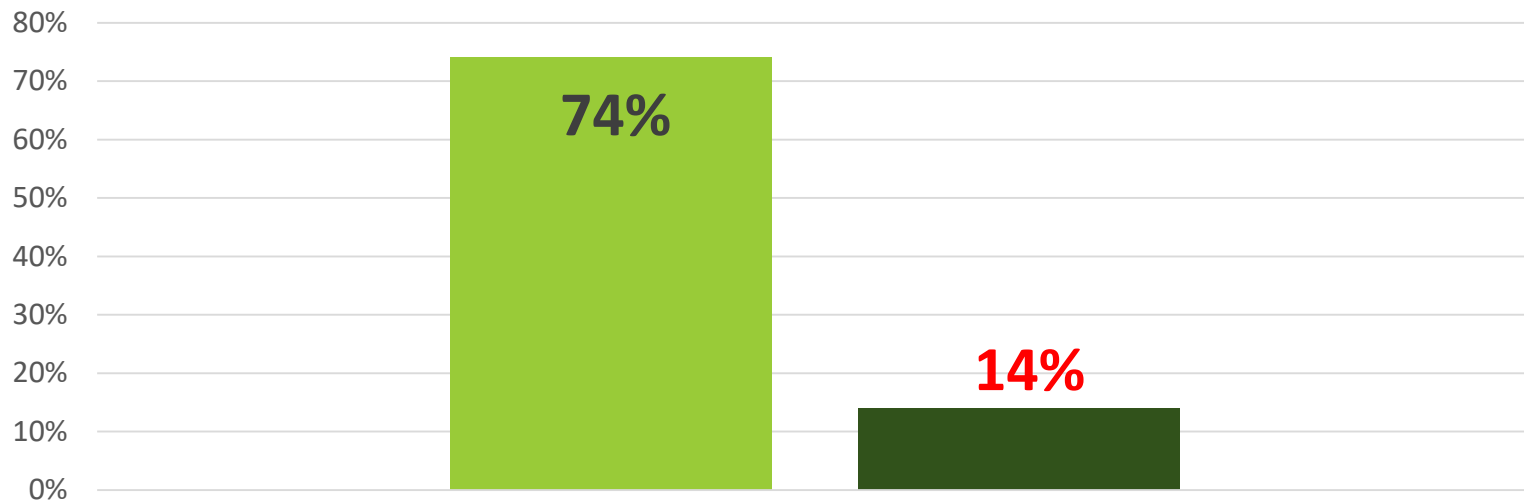
17th Annual Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Meeting
March 18-20, 2018
Denver, CO



Percentage (%) of Students Demonstrating Reading Proficiency

2015 Hawai'i State Systemic Improvement Plan

Strive HI: Student Group Performance Report Hawai'i
SY 2013-2014, age 3-21 years old



Percentage (%) of Students Demonstrating Reading Proficiency

- Students without Disabilities
- Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Hearing Impaired)

Figure 1: Data obtained from 2015 Hawai'i Department of Education State Systemic Improvement Plan, Reference: Hawai'i Department of Education (2015). State Systemic Improvement Plan.
Retrieved from: <https://osep.grads360.org/services/PDCService.svc/GetPDCDocumentFile?fileid=10612>.



Act 177

- Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland and Deaf and Blind Task Force
- HB 1780 and SB 2476 were introduced in January 2016
- On June 30, 2016, Governor David Ige signed the bill into law – **Act 177**
- Hawai‘i became the third state to pass legislation geared toward kindergarten readiness



Act 177

https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2016/bills/GM1279_.PDF

- **Enhance early language services** for children from birth to age 5 years who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind (D/HH/DB) to support age-appropriate language development
- Requires the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DOE) and the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) to **establish a working group**



Early Language Working Group (ELWG)



**ELWG members
+
Many Community and
State Supporters**



ELWG 17 Members

- 1) **Parent** of a child who is D/HH/DB who uses **American Sign Language (ASL)**
- 2) **Parent** of a child who is D/HH/DB who uses **oral language**
- 3) **Parent** of a child who is D/HH/DB who uses a **cochlear implant device**
- 4) **Parent** of a child who is deaf-blind
- 5) Individual who is D/HH/DB who uses **ASL**
- 6) Individual who is D/HH/DB who uses **oral language**
- 7) Representative from the **English as a second language (ESL)** community



ELWG 17 Members (cont.)

- 8) Credentialed **teacher** who uses **ASL** for children under age six years who are D/HH/DB
- 9) Credentialed **teacher** who uses **oral language** for children under age six years who are D/HH/DB
- 10) **Early Intervention Specialist** who works with infants and toddlers using **ASL**
- 11) **Early Intervention Specialist** who works with infants and toddlers using **oral language**
- 12) **Audiologist** or **Speech-Language Pathologist** with knowledge of language assessment and intervention for children who are D/HH/DB



ELWG 17 Members (cont.)

- 13) Representative from the **DOH**
 - Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB)
- 14) Representative from the **DOH**
 - Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP)
- 15) Representative from the **DOH**
 - Early Intervention Section (EIS)
- 16) Representative from the **DOE**
- 17) Representative from the **Executive Office on Early Learning**



Purpose of the ELWG

Make recommendations to the legislature on issues related to supporting age-appropriate language development for children age 0-5 years who are D/HH/DB.



Role of ELWG

Examine, research and make recommendations

- Resource guide
- Tools used to assess and plan language development
- Collection and availability of accurate data
- Improvements for statewide system of services
- Improvements for transition from EI to DOE



Meetings

- ELWG meetings were convened by the DOH, DOE and the Executive Office on Early Learning
- Members were appointed by the Director of Health
- Facilitation provided by a neutral family support organization
- Sunshine Law – meetings were open to the public
- The ELWG met 14 times between October 2016 to February 2018



Challenges for ELWG

- Limited availability of accurate data within DOH and DOE
- No standardized language assessment tools for D/HH/DB children under age 5
- Significant gaps within all systems across the State of Hawaii
 - Training, personnel, resources, funding, parent and professional support, etc.



Accomplishments

- Representation at meetings from parents, D/HH individuals, and community partners
- Members shared common goals, were respectful of varied philosophies, and had equal opportunity to provide input
- Identified gaps in the system beyond language development and made recommendations
- **LEGISLATIVE REPORT IS DONE AND SUBMITTED!!**



Legislative Report

Filed and received on February 2, 2018

<https://health.hawaii.gov/cshcn/files/2018/01/ELWGLegislativeReport2018.pdf>

- Findings of the current status of EI and DOE services for D/HH/DB
- Recommendations for improvements to the EI and DOE systems and services for D/HH/DB
- Proposed formation of sub-groups to continue working on pending issues



Sub-groups

1) **Assessment**

- Milestones
- State-approved, appropriate tools for DOH & DOE

2) **Data and reporting**

- Standardization of data
- Develop universal consent form for data sharing

3) **Qualified personnel**

- Address staff shortage
- Professional development training

4) **Resource Materials** (for parents and professionals)

- Online
- Printed



Extend Sunset Date

ELWG sunsets (expires)
on June 30, 2018...

but we still have much more to do!

Extend the sunset date
to June 30, 2019.



The Future Looks Bright!

- **SKI-HI: Deaf Mentor training**
 - April 13-15, 2018
- **SKI-HI: “Snapshots” Deaf Mentor training**
 - April 13, 2018
- **SKI-HI: Training for professionals**
 - Summer 2018
- **Hearing First: Training for DOH, DOE, and parents**
 - Listening and spoken language
 - Parent Coaching
 - Fall 2018





Mahalo!

Early Language Working Group website:

<http://health.hawaii.gov/cshcn/elwg/>

Contact Information

Jennifer Clark, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialist

Early Intervention Section

<http://health.hawaii.gov/eis/>

Ph: (808) 594-0061

Jennifer.Blohm@doh.hawaii.gov

PoKwan Wong, EHDI Program Manager

Newborn Hearing Screening Program

<http://health.hawaii.gov/genetics/programs/nhsp/>

Ph: (808) 733-9052

PoKwan.Wong@doh.hawaii.gov

Colin Whited, Communication Access Specialist

Disability and Communication Access Board

<http://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/communication-access/>

Ph: (808) 829-3641

Colin.Whited@doh.hawaii.gov

Dale Matsumoto-Oi, Audiologist

Children with Special Health Needs Branch

<http://health.hawaii.gov/cshcn/home/communitypage/>

Ph: (808) 733-9067

Dale.Matsumoto-oi@doh.hawaii.gov

